



## India 2016 Crime & Safety Report: Hyderabad

Travel Health and Safety; Transportation Security; Stolen items; Theft; Fraud; Rape/Sexual Violence; Cyber; Left-wing; Religious Terrorism; Anti-American sentiment; Riots/Civil Unrest; Religious Violence; Floods; Hurricanes; Intellectual Property Rights Infringement; Drug Trafficking; Kidnapping; Hotels; Financial Security

South Central Asia > India; South Central Asia > India > Hyderabad

3/31/2016

### Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Post Crime Rating: Medium

### Crime Threats

While much of the crime is generally non-violent, Hyderabad does experience a full range of criminal activity. Petty crime (theft of personal property) is most common particularly on trains, buses, and crowded streets. Criminal acts can occur at local markets and tourist areas. Foreigners can be favorable targets because they often carry a considerable amount of cash and are easily distracted. Pickpockets can be very adept, and women have reported having their bags snatched, purse straps cut, or the bottom of their purses slit in an attempt to steal personal belongings. Thefts of belongings can occur while in transit, particularly in major tourist areas on overnight trains and in train stations.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Although violent crimes are generally uncommon, crimes against women remain a top security concern for female travelers. Most crimes reported against women have been against local residents, and a large portion can be contributed to domestic disputes. Occasionally, some local women riding motorbikes have had their jewelry snatched by passing motorists. Although in 2015 an increase rape and sexual harassment was reported, this could be attributed to an increase in women willing to report incidents, not necessarily an increase in occurrence.

### Cybersecurity Issues

Hyderabad is the hub of the information technology sector in India. The large presence of IT companies can create an environment of increased cyber security risk. Companies should take steps to ensure the security of their corporate data.

### Other Areas of Concern

The Chhattisgarh borders shared with the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha remain areas of concern due to the ongoing Naxalite and Maoist activity. Although the U.S. government does not place this region off limits, personnel are strongly discouraged from traveling to these border areas for non-essential purposes. Skirmishes between the Naxalites/Maoists and the government continue to plague the border region with violence. Clashes with government officials are frequent. In 2013, a Naxal attack in Darbha valley resulted in the deaths of 24 Indian National Congress leaders. Tourists have also been a target of kidnapping by the Maoist rebels; in 2012, Maoists rebels kidnapped two Italian tourists in Odisha. Reports of attacks on Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Force have been reported during 2015.

## **Transportation-Safety Situation**

### Road Safety and Road Conditions

Main roads are in fair condition, but the city's transportation infrastructure struggles to keep pace with its rapid growth. The result is heavy traffic congestion with poorly maintained back, residential, and access roads. Heavy traffic is normal and includes (but is not limited to) overloaded trucks/buses, scooters, pedestrians, bullock/camel carts, bicycles, and free-roaming livestock. Road conditions worsen during the monsoon season due to flooding.

Driving is a challenge, and accidents are common due to lack of traffic enforcement, road signage, and general disregard by drivers for traffic laws. While driving, one can expect to meet local transportation traveling in the wrong direction, often without lights. Approximately half of all deaths on roads are among vulnerable road users: motorcyclists, pedestrians, and cyclists – Hyderabad is no different. One should exercise extreme caution when crossing streets even in marked pedestrian areas, stay alert, and drive defensive.

To self-drive, you must have either a valid Indian driver's license or a valid international driver's license. Because of difficult road and traffic conditions, one may wish to consider hiring a local driver. Driving in rural areas after dark can be very challenging and hazardous.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



## Public Transportation Conditions

The growth of Hyderabad's population has placed strains on all transport systems in the city. The travel demand far exceeds the supply of transport infrastructure and services. Most bus and train services are overcrowded and poorly maintained. During peak travel hours, buses, trains, and rickshaws are severely overwhelmed. Many passengers hang outside of doors.

Criminals can drug food or drink offered to public transit passengers. Where possible, lock your compartment. If you must sleep, position your luggage so that you are awakened if someone attempts to tamper with it. Do not be afraid to alert authorities if you feel threatened in any way. Extra police are often assigned to ride trains on routes where crime is a serious problem.

Taxis and private vehicle services are better regulated and carry a better safety record than buses and rickshaws. Personnel should only hire reliable cars and drivers but avoid traveling alone in hired taxis – especially during the hours of darkness. Hired car services (Uber) are becoming popular and are fairly reliable. Only take taxis clearly identified with official markings and beware of unmarked cabs. It is preferable to obtain taxis from hotels and pre-paid taxis at airports rather than hailing them on the street. Most hotels can arrange airport pickups and drop-offs. Travelers arriving at the airport are often approached by unlicensed taxi drivers.

## Aviation/Airport Conditions

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



The Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) is modern and supported by an abundance of Central Industrial Security Force and police. Travelers should be particularly careful with their bags in the arrival/departure areas outside the airport.

## **Terrorism Threat**

Post Terrorism Rating: High

Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns

Hyderabad has seen terrorist attacks, including the bombings of the Mecca Masjid Mosque in May 2007, the Lumbini Amusement park in August 2007, the Gokul Chat restaurant in August 2007, and the twin bombings in Dilsukhnagar in February 2013. Areas generally targeted include crowded, public venues. Although U.S. citizens and foreigners were not specifically targeted, one should not be complacent and remain watchful for any unusual/suspicious events.

The Naxalites/Maoists have a long history of conflict with state authorities, including frequent attacks on local police, paramilitary forces, and government officials. There have been no direct security concerns for Hyderabad or for the specific targeting of U.S. citizens, but Naxalites have attacked symbolic targets that have included Western companies and civilians suspected of cooperating with police/government officials. Naxalite/Maoist violence is

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



primarily concentrated in the rural areas near the Chhattisgarh border with the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. There have been concerns that the Maoists rebels might spread their activities deeper into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, but authorities have deterred such actions to date.

There continues to be concern regarding violence from indigenous Islamic radical groups, most notably the Indian Mujahedeen (IM). On September 15, 2011, the U.S. designated IM as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). IM is responsible for dozens of bomb attacks in India since 2005 and has killed hundreds of innocent civilians. IM's goal is to carry out terrorist actions against non-Muslims to create an Islamic Caliphate across South Asia.

Recent reports of ISIS-linked subjects being arrested in the Hyderabad area is a reminder of the need to maintain security awareness and remain vigilant.

#### Anti-American/Anti-Western Sentiment

Anti-Western terrorist groups and Islamist extremist groups, some on the U.S. government's list of FTOs, are active (Harakat ul-Mujahidin, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e Taiba (LT, LeT), Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami (HUJI). Past attacks have targeted public places frequented by Westerners: luxury and other hotels, trains, train stations, markets, cinemas, mosques, and restaurants in large urban areas. Attacks have taken place during the busy evening hours in markets and other crowded places but could occur at any time.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



U.S. citizens should always practice good security awareness. Be aware of your surroundings and keep a low profile. Monitor local news reports, vary routes/times in carrying out daily activities, and consider the level of security present when visiting public places (including religious sites) or when choosing hotels, restaurants, and entertainment/recreation venues.

## **Political, Economic, Religious, and Ethnic Violence**

Political Violence Rating: Medium

### Civil Unrest

Demonstrations/protests/celebrations are common and generally non-aggressive, but the potential exists for them to turn violent. Demonstrations and general strikes (bandhs) often impact city operations and strain security resources. Large religious ceremonies that attract thousands of people can result in dangerous, often life-threatening stampedes. Local demonstrations can begin spontaneously and escalate with little warning, disrupting transportation systems and city services and posing risks to travelers. In response to such events, authorities occasionally impose curfews/restrict travel. Personnel are urged to avoid demonstrations and rallies, as they have the potential for violence, especially immediately preceding and following elections and religious festivals. Avoid demonstrations, large crowds, or substantial gatherings of people and do not attempt to drive through them. It is strongly recommended that you avoid participation in demonstrations.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



## Religious/Ethnic Violence

Tensions between castes and religious groups can result in disruptions and violence. Hyderabad continues to struggle with communal violence predominantly between Hindu and Muslim groups, but in 2014, the Consulate also saw minor skirmishes between Sikh and Muslim groups. These clashes are often spontaneous, leaving non-participants vulnerable to harm due to fighting. U.S. citizens should monitor local television, print media, or utilize the U.S. Embassy or Consulate social media tools for further information about unstable situations.

## Post-specific Concerns

### Environmental Hazards

Natural disasters can and do occur and are usually in the form of flooding during the monsoon season (June-September). For Hyderabad, streets can see temporary, low-level flash flooding that hampers travel and causes heavy traffic congestion and delays. Parts of Andhra Pradesh can receive particularly heavy rainfall.

In September 2001, flooding from heavy monsoon rains killed hundreds and displaced millions in northern and eastern India.

In the 2009 monsoon season, heavy rains created flooding in the districts of Kurnool, Nalgonda, Krishna, Guntur, and Mahbubnagar that led to the deaths of at least 250 people and the displacement of approximately 750,000 people.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



In December 2015, heavy rain hit Tamil Nadu, killing more than 500 people and over 18 million were displaced with estimates of damages and losses ranging from (US\$7-15 billion) The floods are the costliest to have occurred in 2015 and were among the costliest natural disasters of the year.

In 2013, Cyclone Phailin hit the east coast, killing 21 people and displaced thousands. In 2014, Cyclone Hudhud hit the east coast near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh with 110mph winds. The cyclone severely damaged the airport and 80 percent of the green cover and left the city without power and water for five days.

#### Economic Espionage/Intellectual Property Thefts

Do not buy counterfeit and pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are the bootlegs illegal in the U.S., you may be breaking local law too.

#### Privacy Concerns

Theft of financial information as well as identity theft has become a significant concern in India.

#### Personnel-Background Concerns

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



India's Constitution does not guarantee a right to privacy for foreigners or Indian citizens.

### Drug-related Crimes

Most of the drugs that are illegal in the U.S. are also illegal in India. In fact, some drug laws are stricter than those in the U.S. Indian officials conduct major anti-drug operations, especially at transportation hubs (airports, train stations). Undercover narcotics officers frequent clubs and hotels in attempts to apprehend drug users and dealers.

### Kidnapping Threat

Kidnapping of foreigners is rare but has occurred. Travelers should remain vigilant and maintain situational awareness at all times. Kidnappings of children and women in the local community occur with some frequency.

### Police Response

The police do an effective job of managing large-scale protests and can be responsive to security requests; however, overall police assistance is delayed when compared Western

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



standards, with a typical response time of 30+ minutes. Even when a suspect is arrested, the length of time it may take for a case to be heard in court is often several years. Further information on the City Police can be found at: [www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in](http://www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in).

While you are traveling in India you are subject to its laws. Indian laws and legal systems can be vastly different from our own. There are also some things that might be legal in India but are illegal in the U.S. Travelers should refrain from taking pictures of government facilities, train stations, airports, power plants, or other key sites receiving protection from the government. For more information, please review OSAC's Report "Picture This: Dos and Don'ts for Photography."

#### How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

If you are a U.S. citizen and are arrested you have a right to notify, or have officials notify, the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate of your arrest. Insist on this as a right since it is often overlooked. Though the Embassy and Consulates cannot intervene in legal matters, they can provide information on lawyers, the local justice system, can visit you on a regular basis if you are incarcerated, and can serve as a liaison with parties approved by you.

#### Crime Victim Assistance

The local emergency line in India is 100.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



If you are a U.S. citizen and become the victim of a crime, you should contact the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate - contact the police first for immediate assistance. For violent crimes, the Consulate does offer services and guidance to appropriate medical care and assistance in contacting family members or friends.

If you are a victim of a crime, you need to obtain a copy of the police report (FIR) from local police at the time of reporting the incident. Local authorities generally are unable to take any meaningful action without a police report.

If you lose your passport, you should immediately report the theft/loss to the police in the location where your passport was stolen. A police report is required by the Indian government in order to obtain an exit visa. Although the Embassy or Consulate is able to replace a stolen or lost passport, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) are responsible for approving an exit visa. This process can take 3-4 working days.

## **Medical Emergencies**

The quality of medical care in India varies considerably. Medical care is available in the major population centers that approaches and occasionally meets Western standards, but adequate medical care is usually very limited or unavailable in rural areas. The local medical emergency number is 108.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Before going to India, travelers -- especially those with preexisting/complicated medical issues or pregnancy -- should identify adequate health care providers/facilities at their destination.

Medical tourism is a rapidly growing industry. Companies offering vacation packages bundled with medical consultations and financing options provide direct-to-consumer advertising over the Internet. Such medical packages often claim to provide high quality care, but the quality of health care is highly variable. For more information, please refer to OSAC'S Report "Medical Tourism Surgings." Anyone interested in traveling for medical purposes should consult with his/her local physician before traveling and refer to the information from CDC.

#### Contact Information for Recommended Hospitals/Clinics

There are two main hospitals that are recommended for emergency care:

##### Continental Hospital

Road Number 2, Financial District, Nanakramguda,

Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana 500035, India

Tel: +91 40 6700 0000

##### Apollo Hospital

Jubilee Hills, Near to Film Nagar,

Hyderabad, Telangana 500033, India

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Tel: +91 40 2360 7777

The Joint Commission International (JCI) aims to improve patient safety through accreditation and certification of health care facilities worldwide. Facilities that are accredited through JCI demonstrate a standard level of quality. A list of these facilities can be found at [www.jointcommissioninternational.org/JCI-Accredited-Organizations](http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/JCI-Accredited-Organizations).

#### Available Air Ambulance Services

International SOS: <https://www.internationalsos.com/>

Europ Assistance: <http://www.europ-assistance.com/en>

#### Recommended Insurance Posture

You cannot assume your insurance will go with you when you travel. It is very important to find out before you leave: 1) Does my policy apply when I'm out of the U.S.? 2) Will it cover emergencies like a trip to a foreign hospital or an evacuation? In many places, doctors and hospitals still expect payment at the time of service. Your regular U.S. health insurance may not cover doctors' and hospital visits in other countries. If your policy does not go with you when you travel, it is a very good idea to take out another one for your trip. For more information on medical insurance, see the CDC website for Travel Insurance, Travel Health

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Insurance, & Medical Evacuation Insurance.

CDC Country-specific Vaccination and Health Guidance

For additional information on vaccines and health guidance, please visit the CDC at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/india>.

## **OSAC Country Council Information**

For more information on the Hyderabad OSAC Country Council, please see <https://www.osac.gov>. To reach OSAC's South and Central Asia team, please email [OSACSCA@state.gov](mailto:OSACSCA@state.gov).

## **U.S. Consulate Location and Contact Information**

Consulate Address and Hours of Operation

The U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad is at Paigah Palace, 1-8-323 Chiran Fort Lane, Begumpet, Secunderabad, Telangana, 500003; and is open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



to Friday.

### Consulate Contact Numbers

Tel: 91-40-4033-8300.

Website: <http://hyderabad.usconsulate.gov/>

### Nearby Posts

Embassy New Delhi: <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate Chennai: <http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Kolkata: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Mumbai: [http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov](http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/)

Virtual Presence Post Bangalore: <http://bangalore.usvpp.gov/>

### Consulate Guidance

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Travelers should enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. <https://step.state.gov/step/>. Benefits of enrolling in STEP include:

Receive important information from the Consulate about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.

Help the U.S. Consulate contact you in an emergency.

Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

## **Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim**

### Scams

Beware of taxi drivers and others, including train porters, who solicit travelers with "come-on" offers of cheap transportation/hotels. Travelers accepting offers have frequently found themselves the victims of scams, including transfers to disproportionately expensive hotel rooms, unwanted "tours," unwelcome "purchases," and even threats when the tourists try to decline to pay.

Some vendors sell carpets, jewelry, gemstones, or other expensive items that may not be of the quality promised. Deal only with reputable businesses and do not hand over your money unless you are certain that goods being shipped are the goods you purchased. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it is best avoided.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



A growing number of foreigners have fallen prey to property scams, usually being convinced to invest in property with an Indian partner. Rarely do the partnerships survive. The trend has the Indian partner using a pretext to make a claim on the entire property, generally after construction or restoration is complete or to offer the foreign partner an inadequate sum to buy out their share. Lacking knowledge of the Indian legal system in order to fight for what is rightfully theirs, the foreign partner often loses considerable sums of money.

You should be aware of a number of other scams that have been perpetrated against foreign travelers, particularly in Goa, Jaipur, and Agra. The scams generally target younger travelers and involve suggestions that money can be made by privately transporting gems or gold (both of which can result in arrest) or by taking delivery abroad of expensive carpets, supposedly avoiding customs duties. The scam artists describe profits that can be made upon delivery of the goods and require the traveler to pay a "deposit" as part of the transaction.

### Situational Awareness Best Practices

Be especially cautious in areas where you are likely to be victimized, including: train stations, tourist sites, market places, festivals, marginal areas of city. Avoid short cuts, narrow alleys, poorly-illuminated streets, and traveling alone at night. Avoid public demonstrations and other civil disturbances. Generally keep a low profile and avoid loud conversations or arguments. Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers. Beware of strangers who approach you, offering bargains or to be your guide.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Preplan your destination regarding your stay and tourism. Try to seem purposeful when you move about. Even if you are lost, act as if you know where you are going. When possible, ask directions only from individuals in authority. Have ground transportation prearranged at your destination. Have the phone numbers of local friends and contacts readily available and/or saved to your mobile phone. If you schedule a meeting with a potential client, research the company and the individual with whom you are meeting. Meet in a public place.

Keep your hotel door locked at all times. Meet visitors in the lobby. Do not leave money and other valuables in your hotel room while you are out. Use the hotel safe. Let someone know when you expect to return if you are out late at night. Read the fire safety instructions in your hotel room. Know how to report a fire. Be sure you know where the nearest fire exits and alternate exits are. Count the doors between your room and the nearest exit. This could be a lifesaver if you have to crawl through a smoke-filled corridor.

Exercise good personal security and situational awareness when visiting markets and tourist venues. Travelers should always exercise modesty and caution in their financial dealings to reduce the chance of being a target for robbery or other serious crime. Do not flash large amounts of money when paying bills. Make sure your credit card is returned to you after each transaction. Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money, buy airline tickets, or purchase souvenirs. Do not change money on the black market. Wear the shoulder strap of your bag across your chest and walk with the bag away from the curb to avoid purse-snatchers. Keep your passport on your person, not in a backpack or separate bag. If you are confronted by someone trying to rob you, give up your valuables; they can be replaced. If your possessions are lost/stolen, report the loss immediately to the local police. The Consulate General can assist you with understanding local police procedures. Keep a copy of the police report for insurance claims.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



Upon leaving the airport building, passengers should take precautions because of the large crowds and chaotic atmosphere, which is ideal for pickpockets. Passengers are also cautioned when coming out of the airport to stay away from anyone offering cheap residential accommodation or transportation. If you require assistance with luggage, make sure porters are accredited by the airport and are identifiable by their uniform. If you require a taxi service, arrange one through the multiple kiosks inside the airport.

Females are cautioned avoid traveling alone, and police officials recommend that foreign travelers register with the local police when traveling to their district. Observe stringent security precautions, including avoiding using public transport after dark without the company of known and trustworthy companions. Restrict evening entertainment to well-known venues and avoiding walking in isolated areas alone at any time of day. Carry a mobile phone with pre-programmed emergency contact numbers, and respect local dress and custom, with an emphasis on dressing conservatively.

---

*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*